Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 MMS-03 SS-20 SP-03 A-01

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P R 251207Z APR 74 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2727

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 6765

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EAID, CG, TH

SUBJ: PROPOSED USAID/CAMBODIA SUPPORT OFFICE IN BANGKOK

- 1. MUCH APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS USAID/CAMBODIA (UCO) WITH TOM OLMSTEAD APRIL 24. WE FULLY APPRECIATE IMPORTANCE OF OBTAINING PROMPT RTG APPROVAL. BOTH AMBASSADOR AND DCM HAVE DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER AND UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AS WELL AS WITH LOWER LEVEL THAI OFFICIALS. WE WILL CONTINUE THESE EFFORTS AND BELIEVE ODDS ARE STRONG THAT RTG WILL AGREE.
- 2. AMBASSADOR WILL BE SEEING FOREIGN MINISTER APRIL 26 AND WILL STRESS AGAIN IMPORTANCE OF PROMPT APPROVAL IN VIEW NECESSITY OF ADQQUATE U.S. ECONOMIC AID TO CONTINUED SURVIVAL OF GKR WHICH IS IN STRONG INTERESTS OF RTG AND USG. WILL ADVISE ON OUTCOME IMMEDIATELY AFTER THAT MEETING.
- 3. MEANWHILE, WE CONTINUE TO BE READY TO DO ANYTHING POSSIBLE BY WAY OF INTERIM MEASURES TO HELP MEET VERY REAL PROBLEM WHICH PHNOM PENH FACES. OLMSTEAD AND ERNST DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF SHIFTING TO USOM BANGKOK CERTAIN SUPPORT ACTIVITIES. LET US KNOW IF THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL OR IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER THOUGHTS ON ASSISTANCE WE CAN GIVE UNTIL WE OBTAIN RTG APPROVAL.
- 4. WE STRESSED TO OLMSTEAD, AND HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND, FACT THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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WE HAVE BEEN PRESSING THIS REQUEST AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF RTG

BUT NEED TO PLAY OUR HAND CAREFULLY SINCE OVERKILL WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. WHILE UCO WOULD BE INNOCENT ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD CAUSE NO PROBLEMS FOR RTG, THEY ARE CONSIDERING THIS REQUEST CAREFULLY IN LIGHT TROUBLES THEY ARE HAVING WITH MANY OTHER U.S. OFFICES IN THAILAND CONCERNING MOVEMENT OF COMMODITIES WITHOUT REGARD TO RTG REGULATIONS, DIFFICULTIES WITH IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS, ETC. UNFORTUNATELY, THAI STALLING OVER USAID/CAMBODIA IS THE PRICE WE ARE PAYING FOR MANY YEARS OF FREE-WHEELING BY AMERICAN OFFICES IN THAILAND. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO OUR BEST TO SECURE RTG APPROVAL AND BELIEVE WE CAN PULL IT OFF. MEANWHILE, LET US KNOW IF THERE ARE OTHER WAYS WE CAN HELP. KINTNER

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